Loss of Foodgrains

3058. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 46 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1988 and state: what is the annual percentage of the subsidy amount accounted for pilferage, theft of food articles, storage losses, demurrage and theft from losses of wagons diverted to other stations during the last three years, year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): The food subsidy is paid to F.C.I. for reimbursement of (i) the difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their issue prices i.e. Consumer subsidy (ii) carrying cost of buffer stocks.

Both the economic cost of grains and the carrying cost of buffer include among others, an element of transit and storage shortages.

The transit and storage losses represent only a small percentage of the total turnover of the F.C.I. The total turnover of the F.C.I. and its percentage to the turnover during three years from 1984-85 are indicated below:—

Turnover

(Quantity in lakh MTS)
(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Purchase+Sales		%age of shortage over Purchase+Sales	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1984-85	295.14	6127 99	1 94	2 00
1985-86	368 40	7585 01	1.62	1 79
1986-87	398.96	8949.10	1.63	1 69

The subsidy released to FCI during the period from 1984-85 to 1986-87 is given below:

Year	Subsidy (Rs. in Crores)
1984-85	1180
1985-86	1650
1986-87	2000

Strengthening of Panchayati Raj

3059. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the institution of Panchayati Raj has not acquired the place in our society as visualised by the father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to strengthen the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) All the States excepting Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and the Union Territories excepting Laksha-